

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1 A method for maintaining confidentiality of personal  
2 information during E-commerce transactions comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 compiling a profile of personal information within  
5 an electronic depository for at least a first party to an  
6 E-commerce transaction;

7 providing said first party a unique transaction  
8 identifier linked to said profile for use during said E-  
9 commerce transaction; and

10 in response to said first party providing said  
11 transaction identifier to a second party to said E-  
12 commerce transaction, completing said transaction  
13 utilizing said electronic depository without said second  
14 party receiving any of said personal information.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first party is a  
2 buyer and said second party is a merchant having a web  
3 server for initiating E-commerce transactions, and said  
4 completing step further includes the step of locating  
5 said transaction identifier in said electronic  
6 depository.

1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said completing step  
2 further includes the steps of:

3 assigning a security routing identifier (SRID) for  
4 utilization by a shipper and said merchant to match a  
5 product with a buyer's address;

6 receiving said transaction identifier along with  
7 said security routing identifier at said depository; and

8 forwarding at least a portion of said profile to  
9 said shipper along with said SRID, wherein said shipper  
10 receives a product from said merchant utilizing only said  
11 SRID and sends said product to said buyer utilizing said  
12 profile.

13 4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said receiving step  
14 includes the step of automatically notifying said buyer  
15 of a receipt of said transaction information.

16 5. The method of Claim 3, wherein said product for said  
17 transaction is electronic and said receiving step further  
18 includes the step of electronically receiving said  
19 product at said depository and then transmitting said  
20 product to said buyer.

21 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of  
22 providing a unique transaction identifier comprises the  
23 step of providing a credit card number.

5/3/77 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said second party and has a unique TID, further comprising the steps of completing said E-commerce transaction on a server of said electronic depository wherein said transaction is completed on said server without said first party and said second party receiving any of said personal information of the other party.

83 8. A client-based method for maintaining confidentiality of personal information during E-commerce transactions comprising the steps of:

creating a profile of personal information within an electronic depository for at least a first party to an E-commerce transaction, wherein said first party is provided a unique transaction identifier linked to said profile for use during said E-commerce transaction; and

in response to said first party providing said transaction identifier to a second party to said E-commerce transaction, forwarding information related to said E-commerce transaction to said electronic depository, wherein said transaction is completed by said electronic depository without said second party receiving any of said personal information.

9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of enabling said first party to select whether or not to provide said personal information to said second party.

93 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said enabling step further comprises the step of providing a web browser application having a graphical user interface (GUI) on an Internet access system of said client, wherein said GUI provides a plurality of selectable options for said first party including utilizing a transaction identifier to complete said E-commerce transaction.

11. A system for maintaining confidentiality of personal information during E-commerce transactions comprising:

an electronic depository utilized for storing a profile of personal information for at least a first party to an E-commerce transaction;

registration utility affiliated with said depository for assigning said first party a unique transaction identifier linked to said profile for use during said E-commerce transaction;

transaction utility affiliated with said depository for completing said E-commerce transactions utilizing said electronic depository in response to said first party providing said transaction identifier to a second party to said E-commerce transaction, wherein said second party does not receive any of said personal information of said first party.

12. The system of Claim 11, wherein said first party is a buyer and said second party is a merchant having a web server for initiating E-commerce transactions, and said transaction utility includes means for locating said transaction identifier in said electronic depository.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein said transaction utility further includes:

means for assigning a security routing identifier (SRID) for utilization by a shipper and said merchant to match a product with a buyer's address;

6 means for receiving said transaction identifier  
7 along with said security routing identifier to said  
8 depository; and

9 means for forwarding at least a portion of said  
10 profile to said shipper along with said SRID, wherein  
11 said shipper receives a product from said merchant  
12 utilizing only said SRID and sends said product to said  
13 buyer utilizing said profile.

14 14. The system of Claim 13, wherein said receiving means  
15 includes means for automatically notifying said buyer  
16 party of a receipt of said transaction information.

15. The system of Claim 13, wherein said product for  
said transaction is electronic and said receiving means  
further includes electronically receiving said product at  
said depository and then transmitting said product to  
said buyer.

16. The system of Claim 11, wherein said registration  
utility which provides a unique transaction identifier  
comprises means for providing a credit card number.

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1 18. A computer program product for maintaining  
2 confidentiality of personal information during E-commerce  
3 transactions, comprising:

4 a computer usable medium; and

5 program instructions stored within said computer  
6 usable medium, for:

7 compiling a profile of personal information within  
8 an electronic depository for at least a first party to an  
9 E-commerce transaction;

10 providing said first party a unique transaction  
11 identifier linked to said profile for use during said E-  
12 commerce transaction; and

13 in response to said first party providing said  
14 transaction identifier to a second party to said E-  
15 commerce transaction, completing said transaction  
16 utilizing said electronic depository without said second  
17 party receiving any of said personal information.

1 19. The computer program product of Claim 18, wherein  
2 said first party is a buyer and said second party is a  
3 merchant having a web server for initiating E-commerce  
4 transactions, and said program instructions for  
5 completing said transaction further comprise program  
6 instructions for locating said transaction identifier in  
7 said electronic depository.



1 20. The computer program product of Claim 19, wherein  
2 said program instructions for enabling buyer selection  
3 further comprise program instructions for providing a web  
4 browser application having a graphical user interface  
5 (GUI) on an Internet access system of said buyer, wherein  
6 said GUI provides a plurality of selectable options for  
7 said buyer including utilizing a TID to complete said E-  
8 commerce transaction.

1 21. The computer program product of Claim 19, wherein  
2 said program instructions for completing said transaction  
3 further include program instructions for:

4 assigning a security routing identifier (SRID) for  
5 utilization by a shipper and said merchant to match a  
6 product with a buyer's address;

7 receiving said transaction identifier along with  
8 said security routing identifier to said depository; and

9 forwarding at least a portion of said profile to  
10 said shipper along with said SRID, wherein said shipper  
11 receives a product from said merchant utilizing only said  
12 SRID and sends said product to said buyer utilizing said  
13 profile.

1 22. The computer program product of Claim 21, wherein  
2 said program instructions for receiving relevant  
3 information include program instructions for  
4 automatically notifying said buyer party of a receipt of  
5 said transaction information.

23. The computer program product of Claim 21, wherein said product for said transaction is electronic and said program instructions for said receiving step further includes program instructions for electronically transmitting said product to said depository and then to said buyer.

24. The computer program product of Claim 18, wherein said program instructions for providing a unique transaction identifier comprises program instructions for providing a credit card number.

25. The computer program product of Claim 18, wherein said second party also has a unique TID, further comprising program instructions for completing said E-commerce transaction on a server of said electronic depository wherein said transaction is completed on said server without first party or said second party receiving any of said personal information of the other party.

1 26. A computer program product for maintaining  
2 confidentiality of personal information during E-commerce  
3 transactions comprising:

4 a computer readable medium; and

5 program instructions stored on said computer  
6 readable medium for:

7 creating a profile of personal information within an  
8 electronic depository for at least a first party to an E-  
9 commerce transaction, wherein said first party is  
10 provided a unique transaction identifier linked to said  
11 profile for use during said E-commerce transaction;

12 enabling said first party to connect to and interact  
13 with a server of a second party; and

14 in response to said first party providing said  
15 transaction identifier to a second party to said E-  
16 commerce transaction, forwarding information related to  
17 said E-commerce transaction to said electronic depository,  
18 wherein said transaction is completed by said electronic  
19 depository without said second party receiving any of  
20 said personal information.

1 27. The computer program product of Claim 26, further  
2 comprising program instructions for enabling said first  
3 party to select whether or not to provide said personal  
4 information to said second party.

1 28. The computer program product of Claim 26, wherein  
2 said program instructions for said enabling step further  
3 comprises program instructions for providing a web  
4 browser application having a graphical user interface  
5 (GUI) on an Internet access system of said client,  
6 wherein said GUI provides a plurality of selectable  
7 options for said first party including utilizing a  
8 transaction identifier to complete said E-commerce  
9 transaction.

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